

CHAPTER XXIX.

SETTLEMENT OF THE U. E. LOYALISTS' CLAIMS.

LORENZO SABINE, of Massachusetts, was among the first to notice the number, character and position of the Loyalists, and put before the American people the loss to the Republic which every State brought upon itself by the treatment of the men and women of that time. Without him our ancestors would have mingled their dust with mother earth "unwept, unhonored, and unsung." The Loyalists were accused of atrocious crimes, utterly untrue, with motives base and cruel.

Sabine and Parkman opened the doors of American history and proved the injustice of these assertions. The Dominion and Provincial Archives have abundant treasures rewarding those who use them. Historic Societies are gathering up local history. Historic Museums are awaking to the duty of preserving the relics and mementos of the brave men and women who followed the discoverers and navigators of the St. Lawrence. Thompson, Richardson and other Canadians adds their part to preserve the memories of their time. From Europe came people of many nationalities and languages to be welded together as Canadians. The only road for the settler was the Indian trail; the blazed trees his only guide through the limitless forests. With unparalleled industry they toiled, felling the forest, sowing the fields, and planting orchards. They lived in log cabins with few of the necessities of life, until the virgin soil rewarded their labors. They dared the wolf and grappled with the bear to secure for their descendants the heritage we enjoy.

In December, 1897, Dr. Bourinot delivered an address at the University of Toronto upon the U. E. Loyalists of Canada. It was the jubilee year of the long reign of Queen Victoria. He contrasted the beginning of the Dominion with the magnificent spectacle presented there. What Dr. Bourinot more particularly dwelt upon was the mistaken idea of so many that the U. E. Loyalists were uneducated and poor. The Commissioners sent to England in 1786 forever settled the fact that even the generosity of the Commissioners could in no manner compensate the Loyalists for the loss of their homes. Her aid could only ameliorate in a slight degree the necessities of the present, and the